

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims, without prejudice or disclaimer, as presented below.

1. (previously presented) An assist handle assembly for use on an articulating bed, the assembly comprising:

an assist handle;

a handle mount that is adapted to be supported by the bed for supporting the assist handle for movement relative to the bed, the assist handle being readily removable from the handle mount without the aid of tools; and

one or more latch configurations for latching the assist handle in one or more fixed positions relative to the bed.

2 (original). The assembly according to claim 1, wherein the assist handle has a first member and a second member that orbits about the first member when the assist handle is moved relative to the handle mount.

3 (original). The assembly according to claim 2, wherein the assist handle is an inverted U-shaped tubular structure and the first and second members are defined by legs of the U-shaped structure.

4 (original). The assembly according to claim 3, further comprising one or more cross members extending between the first and second members.

5 (original). The assembly according to claim 1, further comprising a grip applied to the assist handle.

6 (original). The assembly according to claim 1, wherein the handle mount includes a bracket, the handle mount adapted to be supported by the bed by the bracket.

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7 (original). The assembly according to claim 6, wherein the handle mount includes a plate having a hole therein and a generally cylindrical sleeve is supported relative to the plate with a passage therethrough that aligns with the hole.

8 (previously presented). The assembly according to claim 7, wherein the hole has an irregular shape and the assist handle has a member that mates with the hole.

9 (original). The assembly according to claim 8, wherein the hole is defined by at least one flat side and a curved side.

10 (original). The assembly according to claim 8, wherein the hole is defined by two opposing flat sides and two opposing curved sides.

11 (original). The assembly according to claim 10, wherein the mating member of the assist handle has flat surfaces and curved surfaces that correspond to the flat sides and the curved sides defining the hole in the plate.

12 (previously presented). An assist handle assembly for use on an articulating bed, the assembly comprising:

an assist handle;

a handle mount for supporting the assist handle for movement relative to the bed, the handle mount being supported by the bed via a bracket, the handle mount including a plate having a hole therein and a generally cylindrical sleeve supported relative to the plate with a passage therethrough that aligns with the hole in the plate, the hole in the plate being defined by two opposing flat sides and two opposing curved sides that mate with a mating member of the assist handle having flat surfaces and curved surfaces that correspond to the flat sides and the curved sides defining the hole in the plate; the assist handle further having a flange that is disposed above the mating

member and a partial annular groove defined between the curved surfaces and the flange, the annular groove being sized to receive the flat sides defining the hole in the plate upon inserting the mating member in the hole and rotating the assist handle to trap the mating member in the hole; and

one or more latch configurations for latching the assist handle in one or more fixed positions relative to the bed.

13 (previously presented). The assembly according to claim 1, wherein the latch configuration includes a receiver for receiving a member of the assist handle and a hole and the member of the assist handle supports a locking pin that is releasably engageable with the hole to hold the member in the receiver.

14 (original). The assembly according to claim 13, wherein the latch configuration further comprises a cam surface which the pin engages as the assist handle enters the receiver to urge the pin in a first direction until the assist handle completely enters the receiver, at which point the pin plunges into the hole.

15 (original). The assembly according to claim 14, wherein the pin has a ball end to encourage a smooth engagement between the pin and the cam surface.

16 (original). The assembly according to claim 14, wherein the pin is urged in a second direction opposite the first direction by a spring to urge the pin into the hole.

17 (original). The assembly according to claim 1, wherein the handle mount is secured to a mounting channel and the one or more latch configurations includes a latch configuration disposed on the channel at opposing sides of the mount, the assist handle being adapted to pivot in a first direction to engage a first one of the latch configurations in a first position and about 180-degrees in a second direction to engage a second one of the latch configurations in a second position.

18 (original). The assembly according to claim 17, wherein the channel is structured to be mounted to the bed.

19 (previously presented). An assist handle assembly for use on an articulating bed, the assembly comprising:

an assist handle;

a handle mount that is adapted to be supported by the bed for supporting the assist handle for movement relative to the bed, the assist handle being readily removable from the handle mount without the aid of tools; and

one or more latch configurations spaced from the handle mount for latching the assist handle in one or more fixed positions relative to the bed.

20 (previously presented). The assembly according to claim 19, wherein the assist handle has two spaced members including a first member that is rotatable relative to the handle mount and a second member that orbits about the first member as the first member is rotated relative to the handle mount.

21 (previously presented). The assembly according to claim 20, wherein the assist handle is an inverted U-shaped structure having legs with free ends defining the first and second members of the assist handle.

22 (previously presented). The assembly according to claim 21, further comprising a cross member extending between the legs and being vertically positioned between the free ends of the legs and an upper end of the U-shaped structure.

23 (previously presented). The assembly according to claim 19, further comprising a grip applied to the assist handle, the grip being insulative to insulate a user from the assist handle.

24 (currently amended). The assembly according to claim 19, wherein the handle mount comprises a plate having a hole therein and a sleeve having a passage therethrough that aligns with ~~a passage~~ the hole to receive a first member of the assist handle.

25 (previously presented). The assembly according to claim 24, wherein the hole in the plate has an irregular shape and the first member of the assist handle having at least a partial annular groove that rotationally interlocks with the irregular shape of the hole in the plate to prevent removal of the first member of the assist handle from the hole in the plate.

26 (previously presented). The assembly according to claim 25, wherein the hole in the plate has one or more flat sides and one or more curved sides and the first member of the assist handle has one or more flat surfaces and one or more curved surfaces that mate with the one or more flat sides and one or more curved sides of the hole in the plate.

27 (currently amended). The assembly according to claim ~~24~~ 25, wherein the first member of the assist handle further has a radial flange that partially defines the partial annular groove and restricts vertical travel of the first member of the assist handle through the hole in the plate.

28 (currently amended). The assembly according to claim 19, further including an interlock that permits insertion of a first member of the assist handle into the handle mount when in a first position and prevents removal of the first member of the assist handle ~~into~~ from the handle mount when rotated to a second position.

29 (previously presented). The assembly according to claim 19, wherein the one or more latch configurations comprise:

a receiver for receiving a member of the assist handle and having a portion shaped complementary to the member of the assist handle;

a detent transverse to the receiver, the member of the assist handle having a pin that is releasably engageable with the detent to hold the member of the receiver.

30 (previously presented). The assembly according to claim 29, wherein the latch configuration further includes a ramp surface, the pin being engageable with the ramp surface to urge the pin in a first direction until the assist handle is in the receiver and the pin enters the detent.

31 (previously presented). The assembly according to claim 30, further comprising a spring for urging the pin into the detent.

32 (previously presented). The assembly according to claim 29, wherein the one or more latch configurations further include a threaded hole and a tab spaced from the threaded hole, the threaded hole being provided for receiving a threaded fastener for securing the latch configurations to a supporting surface and the tab engages a hole in the supporting surface to prevent the latch configuration from rotating about the threaded fastener.

33 (previously presented). An assist handle assembly for retrofit use on an articulating bed, the assembly comprising:

an assist handle;

a mounting member that is adapted to be supported by the bed;

a handle mount supported by the mounting member, the handle mount for supporting the assist handle for movement relative to the bed;

one or more latch configurations supported by the mounting member in a spaced relation to the handle mount, the one or more latch configurations for latching the assist handle in one or more fixed positions relative to the bed.

34 (previously presented). The assembly according to claim 33, wherein the assist handle is readily removable from the handle mount without the aid of tools.

35 (previously presented). An articulating bed comprising:
a sleep surface frame that is adapted to be articulated between fully raised and fully lowered positions;
a mounting member that is adapted to be supported by the bed;
a handle mount supported by the mounting member;
one or more latch configurations supported by the mounting member in a spaced relation to the handle mount; and
an assist handle support for rotation by the handle mount, the one or more latch configurations for latching the assist handle in one or more fixed positions relative to the bed.